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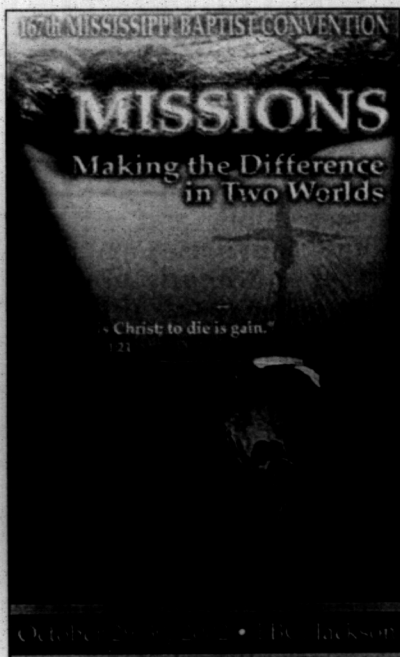
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THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Mississippi Baptists gather in Jackson

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Messengers to the 167th annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) October 29-30 at First Church in Jackson treated Frank Pollard to a standing ovation after his reelection by acclamation to a second one-year term as MBC president.

Pollard, who retired in December 2001 from the pastorate of First Church in Jackson, used his opening remarks to urge the 1,319 registered messengers to stay focused on the most important reason for the convention to exist: the missions effort to spread the Gospel around the globe.

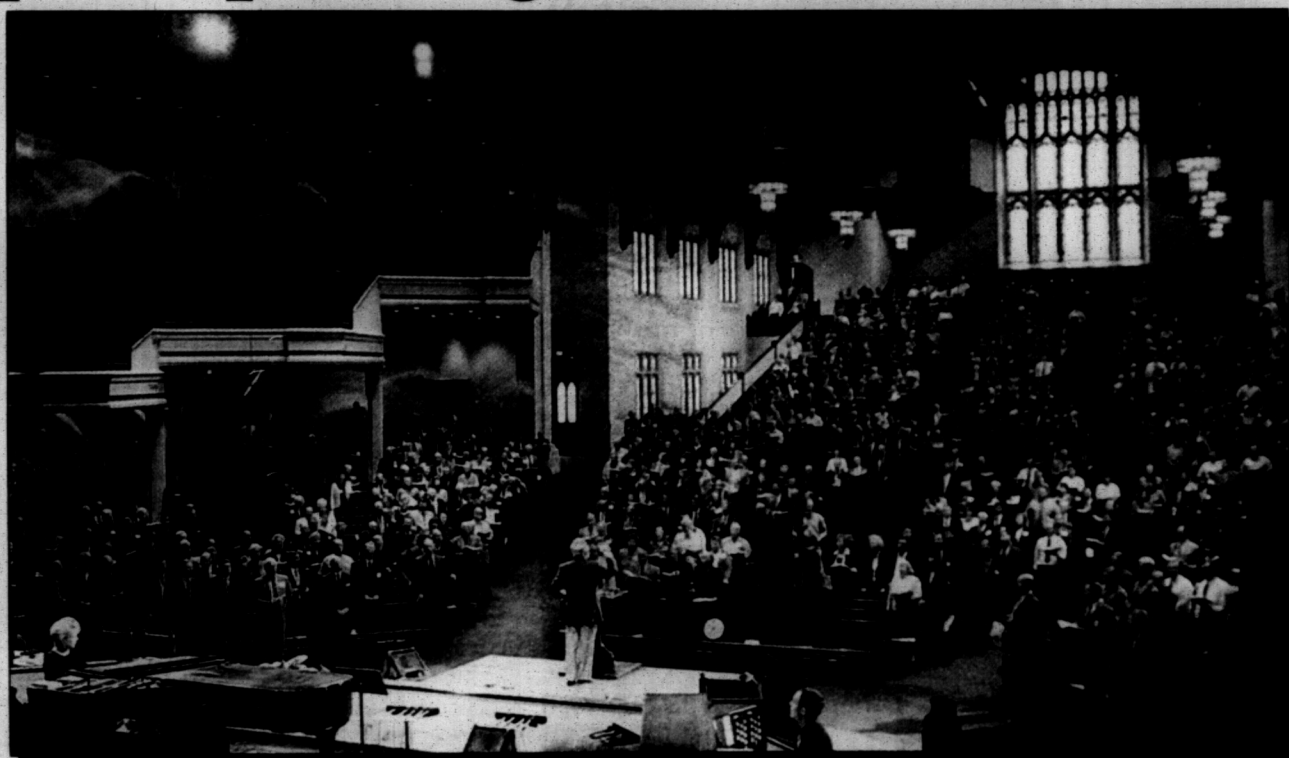
"I pray that there will be no issue in this convention other than we love Jesus and love to tell others about the love of Jesus in world missions," he said.

Bill Hardin, pastor of First Church in Picayune, was reelected by acclamation for a second term as MBC first vice-president. Archie Herrin of Columbia, an associational missions director for a three-county area in southwest Mississippi, was elected by acclamation to a first term as second vice-president.

Gus Merritt, retired pastor of Clark Venable Church in Newton, was reelected by acclamation to the post of recording secretary, while Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church in Olive Branch, was reelected by acclamation for another term as assistant recording secretary.

Messengers also unanimously adopted a record Cooperative Program (CP) 2003 budget of \$31,592,787, an increase of 3.51%. Of that amount, \$11,057,475 (35%) will go to Southern Baptist causes, an increase in dollars of 3.51% over the 2002 CP budget.

Native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) headquartered in Richmond, Va., detailed for messengers the Southern Baptist worldwide missions effort that now supports more than 5,000 missionaries.



BAPTISTS SING PRAISE — Messengers and guests to the 2002 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention join Larry Black (at podium), minister of music at First Church, Jackson, as he leads congregational praise in the opening session of the meeting October 29 in the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson. A total of 1,319 messengers registered for the meeting. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

In a later session, Bob Reccord, president of the SBC's North American Missions Board (NAMB) in Atlanta, likewise described his agency's efforts to reach North America for Christ. Like IMB, NAMB supports more than 5,000 missionaries.

Both mission board leaders applauded Mississippi Baptists for their consistent prayer, financial, and volunteer support for the two missions programs, and appealed to messengers for continued support in the future.

P.J. Scott, pastor of First Church in Olive Branch, delivered the convention sermon. Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) in Jackson, provided the MBCB program emphasis, casting a vision for the convention board to the year 2020.

An unanticipated motion to amend the convention's constitution to prohibit Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) supporters from serving in MBC roles sparked a lively procedural debate in the final session of the annual meeting.

Messenger Ralph Henson, pastor of Arrowood Church in Meridian, had previously proposed the motion that stated, "I move that the Mississippi Baptist Convention not allow anyone to be employed, elected, or appointed to positions with the Mississippi Baptist Convention if that person is currently serving in an employed, elected, or appointed position with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship."

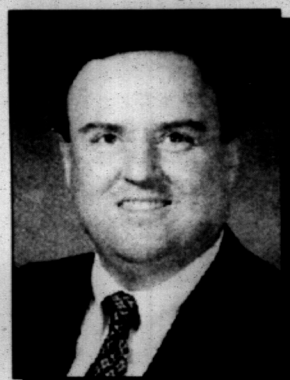
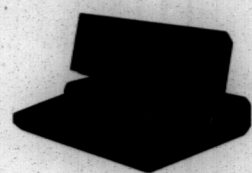
The motion passed overwhelmingly when



MBC OFFICERS — Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) officers elected by messengers to the 2002 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 29-30 at First Church, Jackson, include (from left) Gus Merritt, retired pastor of Clark Venable Church, Newton, recording secretary; Bill Hardin, pastor of First Church, Picayune, first vice-president; Frank Pollard, retired pastor of First Church, Jackson, president; Archie Herrin of Columbia, associational missions director, second vice-president; and Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, assistant recording secretary. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

See 2002 MBC, page five

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Another great annual meeting

It has probably started to sound like a broken record by now, but it's nonetheless true: Anyone who passes up the opportunity to attend the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC) is missing a gold-plated blessing. The just-completed 2002 annual meeting was no exception.

The main reason Mississippi Baptists gather each year is to praise the Lord and bathe in the glory of His presence — and He was present again this year, like every year.

There was the moving choral praise from the choirs of First Church, Jackson; First Church, Olive Branch; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; and the Mississippi College Singers.

There were the challenging messages from Frank Pollard in his president's address and First Church, Olive Branch Pastor P.J. Scott in his convention sermon.

Mississippi native Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Richmond, Va., heaped praise on Mississippi Baptists for their support of the board spiritually.

It was good to have a son of our state, who has been involved in Southern Baptist missions for virtually all of his adult life, addressing the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Bob Reccord may not be a Mississippian, but the president of the North American Mission Board (NAMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta was welcomed to the state as if he were a native son.

As if to underscore the crucial position that Mississippi Baptists hold in Southern Baptist missions efforts, it is rare indeed to be able to host the presidents of both IMB and NAMB at any state convention in the same year. It must have something to do with the special positions Mississippi Baptists occupy with these two agencies.

When controversy arose over the procedure for amending the MBC constitution, the parties involved worked toward a solution that was agreeable to all. Controversy resolved in a Christian manner, it was time to go back to praising the Lord.

Therein lies one of the few problems with our MBC annual meetings. When the final business session ended, many people headed for the exits. It seems as if a sizable number of messengers come only for the business sessions and do not care to stay and worship.

After the final business session, NAMB President Bob Reccord rose to address the convention.

What Reccord saw as he strode to the pulpit was a large group of messengers loudly streaming from the meeting room as if someone had pulled a fire alarm. The noisy stampede went on for several minutes.

It was an embarrassing sight and an insult to Reccord, who traveled to Mississippi at considerable effort and expense, only to see so many messengers flee his presentation. Surely he must have wondered what he had done to offend so many Mississippi Baptists.

The answer is that Reccord didn't do anything to offend Mississippi Baptists. He simply had the misfortune of witnessing a few Mississippi Baptists at their boorish worst.

He shouldn't feel like the Lone Ranger. Through the years, people such as Chick-Fil-A founder Truett Cathey and Baptist World Alliance President Denton Lotz have

2002 Mississippi Baptist Convention



been treated the same way by this ill-mannered band of inconsiderate messengers.

It's not an organized effort, although it appears to be so. It is merely the actions of a handful of messengers who make the entire convention look bad.

Let's clean up our act, fellas. You are indeed making all of us look bad. Stop slipping out early and politicking in the hallways, or heading home, while the convention is still going on.

Who knows? You might receive a blessing from sticking around.

SPECIAL OBSERVANCE:

Nov. 10 is Day of Prayer for Persecuted Church

Baptist Press

The revelation by North Korea that it had engaged in a clandestine operation to develop nuclear weapons, contrary to promises made to the Clinton administration in 1994, thrust the Asian nation again into the news.

However, many in the United States have had the communist nation on their minds and in their prayers for years for its shoddy record in human rights. At least one advocacy group for persecuted Christians believes North Korea has the worst record of oppressing Christians of any nation in the world.

Open Doors, an international ministry to persecuted Christians around the globe, placed North Korea atop its annual World Watch List, bumping Saudi Arabia from its perennial and infamous place in the top spot. The list ranks countries according to the level of persecution Christians endure for their faith in Jesus Christ.

Open Doors reports the policy of communist dictator Kim Jong II, like his father, is to demand unswerving allegiance from the nation's citizens. Christians are sought out and eliminated for their refusal to worship Kim himself, the report said.

North Korea is regarded as

the "most hard-line atheistic nation" in the world, according to Paul Marshall in the book, *Religious Freedom in the World*.

"The people of North Korea are perhaps the least free on earth," the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) stated in an Oct. 3 letter to President Bush.

In the letter, the USCIRF, an independent federal agency that advises the president and Congress on religious liberty issues, urged the president to make human rights and

religious freedoms primary conditions in any talks seeking improved bilateral relations.

"The U.S. should not abandon human rights — and be seen to legitimize the horrific abuses of the North Korean regime — for promises on military issues," USCIRF chair Felice D. Gaer said in the letter. North Korea was cited by the Bush administration in 2001 as a "country of particular concern" for its severe violations of religious liberty.

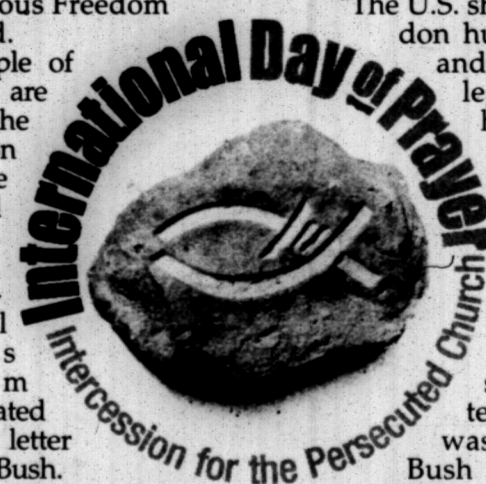
"Religious freedom does not exist as the state severely

represses public and private religious activities, including arresting and imprisoning — and in some cases torturing and executing — persons engaged in such activities," she continued.

North Korea is not the only country that makes a habit of denying its citizens religious liberty. It is estimated that 200 million Christians are being persecuted worldwide and another 400 million Christians are living with restrictions on their religious freedom.

Muslim backlash against Christians has claimed the lives of 39 Pakistani citizens, and 75 Pakistan Christians have been injured in attacks since last October. Armed gunmen killed eight believers in a Pakistani Christian welfare organization Sept. 25. News reports indicate the seven victims were bound and gagged and then shot point-blank in the head in the offices of the Institute for Peace and Justice in Karachi.

In Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, Christian orphanages and programs for the poor are being forced to close their doors because those served by the ministries are placing their faith in Christ much to the chagrin of local Buddhists, a news report from Christian Aid reveals.



Prayer walkers find fertile ground in China

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Getting the good news of God's love to each of China's 1.3 billion people is a mind-boggling challenge, but reports indicate God is working in amazing ways throughout the world's most populous country.

Southern Baptists must not miss the opportunity to get involved, say five leaders who participated in a mid-October "vision trip" in China sponsored by the International Mission Board.

Walking along the Great Wall — a 2,300-year-old marvel that stretches 1,500 miles across northern China — reminded the visitors that the task of reaching China with the gospel is enormous.

"As I stand here on the Great Wall, I am overwhelmed by the magnitude of the task in China," said Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, "but I am excited to learn that 80 million people in China know Christ as personal Savior.

"They are worshipping the Lord, studying His Word, growing in His grace, beginning to send out missionaries. What an exciting thought!"

The vision trip team toured historic sites, prayer-walked a Taoist temple, listened to the testimonies of new Christians, and met students in a school for some of China's 450 minority ethnic groups.

"This is a 'kairos' moment for China, a marvelous opportunity," said Phil Roberts, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo. "The years of hardship the Chinese people have endured have worked to make them open to spiritual things.

"We need to seize the moment and understand that here is an open door that we

need to walk through as soon as possible."

The scope of China's need for the gospel is staggering,

"The thing that amazes me is that we are really almost unconscious of the darkness and blackness of this world,"

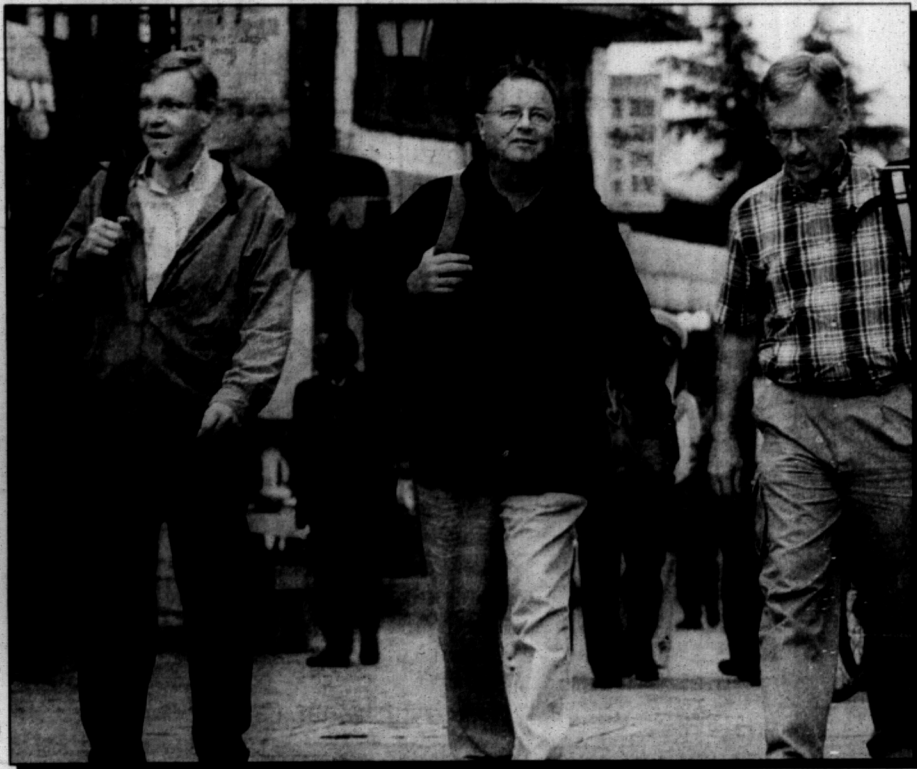
there seems to be an urgency about China."

Understanding God's passion for a lost world must drive Southern Baptists to prayer and sacrifice, said Susie Hawkins, wife of the president of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board in Dallas.

"We must never underestimate the power of prayer," she said. "It's just crucial to the Kingdom of God.

"We've got to become people of prayer who are willing to sacrifice time and energy and understand God's ways and how He builds His Kingdom. We've got to pull away from the affluence and all that we have and look at how the rest of the world lives.

"It is such a great blessing to be able to see. It breaks your heart, but it reminds you of the great privilege it is to know the Lord and be His child."



WALKING, PRAYING — Three members of a mid-October "vision trip" team prayerwalk through a city in China. They are (from left) Phil Roberts, president of Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City; Morris H. Chapman, president of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville; and Larry Cox, vice president for mobilization at the International Mission Board in Richmond, Va. (BP photo)

said Dorothy Patterson, wife of the president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

"All you have to do is set foot in a place like this to know that we have a task before us that's overwhelming," she said. "There are so many people, if they could just hear the name of Jesus. If they could just know that there is a God who loves them."

Most Southern Baptists can't imagine the lostness of China's masses, said Paula Hemphill, wife of the president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

she said. "When you drive through the streets of this city and you see millions, literally millions of people who have not had the chance to respond to the good news of Jesus Christ, and his grace and mercy, it breaks your heart."

Prayerwalking in a Taoist temple — moving slowly through the smoke from hundreds of burning incense sticks — made team members more keenly aware of dark powers that keep people in spiritual darkness.

"As I walked into this Taoist temple, there was a crushing sense of oppression," Chapman said. "As we prayerwalked in the temple garden, I was overcome with the vast need in the world and particularly here in China.

"I think God is saying to us that China is the place that must be reached before Christ comes again. While we need a witness all over the world,

This year's International Missions Emphasis (<http://ime.imb.org>), focusing on the challenge of reaching Chinese people with the gospel, gives Southern Baptists a new opportunity to hear God's heart for China, Chapman said.

"Traveling in China has been a time of reflection for me," he said. "I have thought how this nation and many others so desperately need the Gospel and yet I don't know that there is any country more open today to the Gospel than China.

"This summer we cast a vision to Southern Baptists called Empowering Kingdom Growth," he continued. "We are praying that every Southern Baptist would ask, 'Am I a kingdom person? If not, how can I be? If so, how shall I live?'"

All-out missions giving, as well as praying and going, is critical, Hemphill said.

"It's almost like we are on a sprint to the end," she said.

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Belarus restricts groups

LONDON (BP) — Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko officially signed the country's highly repressive new religion law Oct. 31, ending the ambiguity concerning its status, Keston News Service has reported. The law, considered the most restrictive religion law in Europe, was passed by the upper chamber of Belarus' parliament Oct. 2. The new law, which will take effect 10 days after its official publication, outlaws unregistered religious activity; requires compulsory prior censorship for all religious literature; bans foreign citizens from leading religious organizations; restricts publishing and education to faiths that have 10 registered communities, including at least one registered in 1982; and bans all but occasional, small religious meetings in private homes, Keston reported. The law had strong backing from the government and the Russian Orthodox Church, which claims 1,261 of the 2,830 registered religious communities in Belarus, according to Keston. As soon as the law enters force, religious organizations within the country must align their statutes with the new law, and parts that contradict the new law will become inoperative. According to Keston, all religious organizations must apply for re-registration within two years. "Religious organizations will have to drop everything and spend the next two or three months running around from one office to another paying fees and getting approval, just for this," Oleg Gulak, executive chairman of the Belarusian Helsinki Committee, a human rights group, told Keston. "If even one little thing in their statute does not accord with the law, re-registration will be denied." Gulak expects small religious communities who lack the legal knowledge or necessary perseverance to achieve re-registration to simply give up.

Looking back

10 years ago

While pledging to pray for the new Clinton administration in Washington, conservative Southern Baptist leaders say they will not allow moral issues such as abortion and homosexual rights to go unchallenged in the honeymoon period after the election of Bill Clinton and Al Gore.

20 years ago

Hinds-Madison Association, headquartered in Jackson, finishes a Sunday School enlargement campaign that director of missions J. W. Brister says will serve as a foundation for "the greatest ingathering in the history of the association during a simultaneous revival in 1983."

50 years ago

Howard Aultman, pastor of First Church, Holly Springs, is a third-year student at New Orleans Seminary. According to Aultman, "I've driven over 800 miles a week for two years to go to class, and my only car trouble has been two flat tires."

MBCB selects officers, executive committee

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), meeting October 30 in the Baptist Building in Jackson after the adjournment of the 2002 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC), elected board officers and members of the executive committee to serve for the coming year.



MBCB OFFICERS — Newly-elected officers of the 2002-03 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are (from left) Sandra Gunn, member of First Church, Biloxi, secretary; Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church, Pascagoula, president; and Gordon Sansing Jr., pastor of Forest Church, Forest, vice-president. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Rex Yancey, pastor of First Church in Pascagoula and a former MBC president, was elected to serve as board president.

Gordon Sansing Jr., pastor of Forest Church in Forest, was elected MBCB vice-president.

Sandra Gunn, a member of First Church in Biloxi, was elected to serve as board secretary.

Those three officers will join the new members of the executive committee as elected by the convention board:

- Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven. (At-Large)
- Clarence Cooper, pastor of Emmanuel Church, Grenada. (North Central Association/Grenada)
- Dan Howard, pastor of First Church, Philadelphia. (Neshoba Association)
- Bobby L. Kirk, member of Roundaway Church, Doddsville. (At-Large)
- David Perry, pastor of Big Level Church, Wiggins. (Gulf Coast Association)
- Gary Richardson, pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford. (At-Large)
- Dell Scoper, member of First Church, Laurel. (At-Large)
- P.J. Scott, pastor of First Church, Olive Branch. (At-Large)
- Forrest Sheffield, pastor of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo. (Lee Association)
- Robert Upchurch, member of Calvary Church, Tupelo. (At-Large)
- Wayne VanHorn, pastor of First Church, Columbia. (At-Large)
- Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch. (Northwest/DeSoto Association)
- Diane White, member of Midway Church, Meridian. (At-Large)

MBC President Frank Pollard of Jackson and MBCB Executive Director-Treasurer Jim Futral serve as ex-officio members of the executive committee.

All 82 counties in Mississippi have one representative on the convention board, each selected by the association with which the representative's church cooperates.

The 18 At-Large representatives on the board are nominated by the MBC Committee on Nominations and approved by messengers to the MBC annual meeting.

The total 100 members of the convention board gather after adjournment of the annual meeting to organize for the coming year, elect officers, and elect the executive committee from within the ranks of the board.

The executive committee will select officers during the committee's first meeting in December.

The executive committee is established by Article II of the MBC Plan of Organization and Action, which states:

Section 1. The Convention Board shall elect annually an Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Executive Committee) of sixteen members which committee shall have the power and authority to carry on the work of the Convention as directed by the Convention Board.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall be the trustee of all convention funds and properties and is authorized and empowered to receive, hold in trust, and administer all such funds, trusts, and properties not otherwise provided for. As such trustees, the Executive Committee shall at all times be subject to the direction and control of the Convention Board.

Praise fills 2002 MBC meeting

Musical praise and worship rang loudly through the sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, during the 2002 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 29-30. Choirs included First Church, Jackson; First Church, Olive Branch; the Mississippi Singing Churchmen; and the Mississippi College Singers. Soloist Norma Gerrell of Paris, Tenn., provided a solo prior to the convention sermon by her father P.J. Scott, pastor of First Church, Olive Branch. Leading congregational praise were Larry Black, minister of music at First Church, Jackson; Bobby Sanderson, minister of music at First Church, Columbus; Bill Britton, minister of music at First Church, Olive Branch; L. Graham Smith, director of church music for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and L. Lavon Gray, minister of music at First Church, McComb. Eva Hart, pianist for First Church, Jackson, served as pianist for the meeting. Andy Swanner, organist for First Church, Jackson, served as organist for the meeting.

Pastor's Conference hears Miss., Texas preachers

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The 2002 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference, held October 28 in the Sanctuary of First Church, Jackson, featured five Mississippi Baptist preachers and a Texas pastor who is the former chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Tony Lambert, pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon, kicked off the conference's afternoon session with a sermon from 2 Chron. 7, in which Solomon's dedication of the temple and God's reaction to the dedication are detailed.

Chip Henderson, pastor of Pinelake Church, Brandon, preached from I Sam. 14 that describes how the Philistines became confused and killed each other instead of their enemy, the Israelites.

Dean Stewart, pastor of 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg, utilized 1 Kings 17, which contains a description of God's care for Elijah when events were turning grim for the prophet.

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and former pastor of Broadmoor Church, Madison, based the first sermon of the evening session of Rev. 2, in which the church at Ephesus is warned about losing its first love and having its lampstand (light) removed.

Jim Butler, pastor of Trinity Church, Southaven, based his sermon on Matt. 12, in which the disciples of Jesus were criticized by the Pharisees for picking and eating grain on the Sabbath. Jesus came to His disciples' defense, and Butler pointed out that whenever the religious legalism of the day was pitted against the needs of people, Jesus sided with the people.

Claude Thomas, pastor of First Church, Euless, Texas, and former chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee in

Nashville, closed the conference with a sermon from Matt. 5, in which Jesus' teachings brought great changes to the prevailing social attitudes of the day.

Thomas is the father Eric Thomas, pastor of First Church, Vicksburg. The younger Thomas served this year as president of the Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference.

John and Suzanne Rushing, music evangelists from



PASTOR'S OFFICERS — Officers for the 2002-03 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference include (from left) Eric Thomas, immediate past president and pastor of First Church, Vicksburg; Dean Stewart, president-elect and pastor of 38th Avenue Church, Hattiesburg; and Robert Dominy, president and pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Nashville, served as worship leaders for the conference. Jim Karel, a member of First Church, Vicksburg, gave his testimony of being delivered by Jesus from a life of alcoholism and ruin.

Robert Dominy, pastor of Park Place Church, Brandon, will move from president-elect to president for the 2003 conference, scheduled for October 27 at First Church, Jackson. Dean Stewart was elected by

those in attendance to replace Dominy as president-elect. Stewart will appoint a treasurer to work with him in planning the 2004 conference, when he will move into the president's slot.

For more information on the 2003 Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference, contact Dominy at P.O. Box 1497, Brandon, MS 39043. Telephone: (601) 939-6282.

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

Through the years there have been times that I was a part of an experience at church when a person would pass out, get sick, or be in distress. Someone would go to the microphone and ask, "Is there a doctor in the house?"

Time and again I've seen those with medical expertise respond and do exactly what needed to be done in order to provide help. Sometimes we forget that the Great Physician is always on call — ready, willing, able, and fully prepared to do whatever needs to be done to meet the needs of each of us.

We live in a world of disease and death, and we must never lose sight of the fact that the Great Physician, our Lord Jesus, is our helper and healer.

With Him there are no hopeless cases. The only ones He cannot help are those who will not let Him. He is able to diagnose, treat, and cure all of our diseases.

I see so many people who have terrible, debilitating diseases, and I know He can make a difference. I often see people with Alzheimer's. You are familiar with that disease that gradually, sadly, takes a person from us by removing the memory bank.

Spiritual Alzheimer's is also sad. It is that condition in which a person is unable to remember from where the Lord has brought them and unable to recall all of the wonderful things the Lord has done for them.

Spiritual Alzheimer's is the sort of condition that the Lord



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

warned about when the children of Israel went into the Promised Land. In Deut. 8:11, He said, "Beware that thou forget not the Lord thy God."

It can easily happen to any of us — we prosper and then we quickly forget that life, health, strength, and ability all come from the Lord. We recover from a serious illness and we forget our cries from what could have been our deathbed. We hold our children up before the Lord asking for His guidance and intervention, then when they do well, we tend to think it's just the result of our being good parents.

When it comes to diseases of the eyes, the children of God seem to be especially vulnerable. One in particular that seems to plague the church population is spiritual dyslexia.

Dyslexia is that strange problem that turns letters or numbers around, even reverses word order. The main problem is that it causes a person to put the letters in the wrong place.

For the person who is dyslexic, it creates a strange looking word or an odd sentence. We, who are part of the

church, seem to be affected in this fashion because we often get things turned around.

We know the priority of the people of God ought always to be reaching a lost world, yet we sometimes replace that with a priority of serving ourselves.

Not long ago, I was visiting with some church leaders who were planning an excellent program that could have been used as an opportunity of witness and outreach. Then the question arose among some of the church people, "What if the word gets out in the community and too many of them want to attend?"

The response was that the church members would have first right of participation or refusal, and then if there were any slots left, they would let others participate.

Surely the church ought to be involved in discipleship and opportunities of growth for its members. Yet, at the same time, we must not fail to hear from Jesus who described His ministry as "coming to seek and to save that which is lost."

It is still the priority of the church and it is where we can be, should be, and will be as we follow Jesus — unless spiritual

dyslexia sets in.

Of course, in American culture today, the greatest health danger we face is heart disease. Cardiovascular problems seem to plague everyone as we clog-up, carode-up, and stop-up.

Probably the two main contributors to this disease are improper eating habits and lack of exercise. Think about it!

We take in too much, and too much of the wrong things. We don't make the effort, through work and exercise, to burn up those calories. The result, in part, is that we just "clog-up!"

Could it be that in the church the same kind of atmosphere exists that produces our heart problems? We take in so much which, of course, is in part the reason we go to church:

I want to enjoy the fellowship. I want to enjoy the singing. I want the sermon to do something good for me.

That is all as it should be, but then what are we going to do with the strength, the nourishment, and the guidance that we receive? God intends for us to get to work, to share with others, and to live a life of service that burns up some of those calories.

Maybe we would be healthier in the Kingdom if we ingested a little less and worked a little more.

Well, since I'm not a physician, nor a nurse, I can only recommend to you what I have found to be true in my own life and that is the Great Physician, our Lord Jesus, can work miracles and heal our diseases.

Visit Him today and ask Him to restore your spiritual thoughts and strengthen your heart!

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
copyright 2002

TCU HLS CR HLS

ZCFFYTNFSTH OE

ZLYAOHW CIH CR Y

BIAS LSYAH, TYN CR Y

PCCN ZCTEZOSTZS, YTN

CR RYOHL ITRSOPTSN:

ROAEH HOFCHLW

CTS: ROGS

Clue: Z=C

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Jude Twenty-One.

2002 MBC (continued from page one)

proposed during the earlier session, but in the final session Kermit McGregor, pastor of First Church in Mendenhall and MBC immediate past president, rose to a point of order and asserted that the earlier vote violated established constitutional procedures for amending the document.

Convention Parliamentarian John McCall of Clinton, retired pastor of First Church in Vicksburg and a former MBC president, advised that the first vote was "null and void" based on a Robert's Rules of Order section dealing with items that appear to violate an organization's constitutional procedures.

Hardin, who was presiding at the time, agreed with McCall and ruled the vote null and void.

After about 20 minutes of discussion on parliamentary procedures and the future of Henson's motion, messengers acted to send the motion to the MBC constitution and bylaws committee as specified in the constitution.

The committee will deliver a report on the motion to the 2003 MBC annual meeting, at which time a two-thirds vote by messengers present will be required for passage.

The only other item to generate debate was a resolution proposed by Sandra Gunn, a messenger from First Church in Biloxi and member of the MBCB executive committee.

Gunn's resolution, entitled Affirmation of the Ministry of Women, stated in part, "... (W)hile we affirm the Biblical and historical position of male pastors, we also support, encourage, and thank

God for the millions of women who serve in our churches and ministries around the world..."

The MBC received its first woman pastor earlier this year when Carla Street was called by Rivercrest Fellowship in Flowood, a suburb of Jackson. She served Rivercrest for several years as co-pastor along with her husband Steve Street, and was called as pastor when Steve Street resigned to become coordinator of Mississippi CBF.

Prior to this year's annual meeting, at least one Mississippi Baptist pastor had publicly announced his church's opposition to Rivercrest's action but the issue was not raised at the meeting.

Chuck Poole, pastor and messenger from Northminster Church in Jackson, told messengers that he was not opposed to the resolution but did take exception to the paragraph describing the pastorate as male.

The resolution passed as written by a wide margin. Other resolutions approved by messengers included:

- affirmation of the "commitment of Mississippi Baptists to our mission" of obeying the Great Commission.
- recognition of the need for Christian ministry to "God's children who have mental retardation and to their caregivers."
- appreciation for the late Jack Winton Gunn, who served for many years as an instructor at Mississippi College in Clinton and as executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission.
- appreciation to the host church, First Church of Jackson.



WELCOME TO MISSISSIPPI — Ken Lyle (left), consultant in the Missions Mobilization Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Gordon Sansing Jr. (center), pastor of Forest Church, Forest, talk with Bob Reccord, president of the North American Mission Board in Atlanta, on October 30 after Reccord addressed messengers to the 2002 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention at First Church, Jackson. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

The 2003 MBC annual meeting is scheduled for October 28-29 at First Church of Jackson. Forrest Sheffield, pastor of Harrisburg Church in Tupelo, was tapped to deliver the 2003 convention sermon.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Derrick, Gateley, and Robertson

Guy Gateley was recently ordained as deacon at White Oak Church, White Oak. Pictured (from left) are Jerry Derrick, Gateley, and Tim Robertson, pastor.

tray on Sept. 29. White has served as treasurer for 18 years. Pictured (from left) are Lewis Roberts, White, and LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.



Roberts, White, and Summerlin

Midway Church, Moss Point, ordained Chris Ladner as deacon on Oct. 20. Pictured (from left) are Ladner and John Coggin, pastor.



Wood and Johnson

Robert Rowzee was ordained on Aug. 11 at Chunky Church, Chunky. Rowzee is pastor of New Fellowship Church, Hickory, and attends New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Pictured (from left) are Rowzee and Wayne Campbell.



Ladner and Coggin

John Johnson of Salem Church, Toomsaba, recently received a pin for 42 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. Pictured (from left) are Thomas J. Wood and Johnson.

Enterprise Church, Enterprise, recognized their missions organizations on Aug. 25. The Acteens completed their Quest For Courage award. Pictured are the Acteens, GAs, and Mission Friends.



Rowzee and Campbell

Friendship Church, McComb, honored Julia Lee White with a reception and presented her a



Enterprise Church Mission Friends, Enterprise



Enterprise Church GAs, Enterprise

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*Endorsed by the North American Mission Board

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 7, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

North Mississippi Women's Retreat

"A seeking heart: rediscovering true worship"

March 14-15, 2003, Central Hills Baptist Retreat Center

Featuring Sarah Groves, author & musician, Fayetteville, Ark.



Sarah Groves

*A women's retreat full of Bible study,
prayer and worship times.*

Check in: 4 p.m. Friday, March 14
Dinner: 5:30 p.m.

Worship Celebration I: 7 p.m.

Ends with lunch 1 p.m., Saturday, March 15

Study guides will be available for purchase at retreat.

Sponsored by the Miss. WMU. For more info contact Kathy Burns at
1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3324 or e-mail at kburns@mbcb.org

North Mississippi Women's Retreat Registration

Church _____ Association _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Contact Person _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Number of Women _____ X cost per person = Total enclosed \$ _____

(Please list the names of women on separate piece of paper)

Cost: \$50 (Lodging, 3 meals and registration)

Deadline: Friday, March 7, 2003

MAIL TO: Women's Retreat at Central Hills, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

MISSISSIPPI STATE EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

January 27-28, 2003

Harrisburg Baptist Church, Tupelo

One State Evangelism Conference with two tracks

Opening session Monday 1:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S TRACK

Radical Christianity – Just for Women

Monday, January 27

3 p.m. Prayer & Testimony Patsy Bozeman
"The Call to Prayer" Jaye Martin

Tuesday, January 28

9 a.m. Prayer & Testimony Jean Atkins
"The Call to Power" Jaye Martin

1:30 p.m. Prayer & Testimony Audrey Hector
"The Call to Purpose" Jaye Martin



Jaye Martin
Women's
Consultant
NAMB

No registration required

For more info, call the Mississippi WMU: 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3324

Mississippi Delta MissionsFEST 2002

FOLLOW-UP, Tchula, Miss.

November 16, 2002

MissionsFEST
2002

Come help complete the weatherization project (light construction & home repairs), community cleanup, prayer garden and prayerwalk. There is no cost to participate. Meals are on your own.

Participants must register with Mississippi WMU by **11/8/02**

MissionsFEST FOLLOW-UP Registration

(Group) Leader _____ Church _____

Address _____

Phone (day) _____ (evening) _____ (e-mail) _____

No. in Group (male) _____ (female) _____

Groups/individuals are responsible for transportation to ministry sites. Please copy this form and register groups separately for each ministry project.

Weatherization _____ Comm. Cleanup _____ Prayerwalking _____ Prayer Garden _____

Mail to: MS WMU, PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 316.



PRESCHOOL/CHILDREN'S LEADERSHIP FESTIVAL

2 • 0 • 0 • 2

COST \$10 EACH

NOVEMBER 15 AT 3:15 P.M. — NOVEMBER 16 AT 12:50 P.M.

MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, HATTIESBURG

Preregistration is requested by November 1, 2002.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR

ALL PRESCHOOL LEADERS AND **ALL** CHILDREN'S LEADERS

(Sunday School teachers; Discipleship Training teachers; Mission Friends, Girls in Action, and Royal Ambassador mission leaders; Church Weekday administrators, teachers, and caregivers; Mother's Day Out teachers; and children's worship leaders)



KEYNOTE FEATURE

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One Way Ministries

featuring also

TODD CAPPS, LifeWay specialist
JAN MARLER, LifeWay specialist
and other leaders from around our state

Sponsored by MBCB Discipleship & Family Ministry.
For more info, call Don Hicks 1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800.

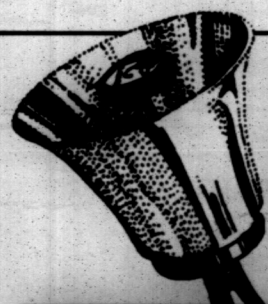
MISSISSIPPI YOUTH EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

A.E. WOOD COLISEUM
MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE, CLINTON
DECEMBER 30-31, 2002

Registration begins at noon.

First session starts at 2 p.m.

Concludes Tuesday at 3 p.m.



2003 STATE HANDBELL FESTIVAL MUSIC

Music may be purchased from the LifeWay Christian Store (Jackson) or your supplier.

Young Ringer's Festival Music, March 22, FBC Brandon

Choirs will purchase all four numbers for the festival.

- "A Joyful Ring" Agape #1397, Kinyon
- "All Glory Laud and Honor" AGEHR, AG23019, Kinyon
- "Moment Meditation" Fred Bock, MRW8132, Eithun
- "Lord of Glory" Alfred, AP19640, Geschke

State Handbell Festival Music, April 25-26, Emmanuel BC, Grenada

May 2-3, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

*Each choir will select music from Group I, beginning and inexperienced choirs; or Group II, experienced and advanced choirs.
All choirs will ring the combination numbers.*

Group I

- "Chimings of Thankfulness" Shawnee #MSPHP5398, Edwards
- "Awesome Adoration" Chorister's Guild #MCGB259, Geschke

Group II

- "Felicidades" Shawnee #MSPHP 5397, Simpson
- "I Will Arise and Go to Jesus" Chorister's Guild #MCGB264, Edwards

Combined

- "How Beautiful" Agape #2244, Larson
- "Jubilance" Chorister's Guild #CGB234, McChesney
"Jubilance" is also available in 2-3 octave settings #CGB188

THE SUIT PROJECT ❄️

Mississippi Baptists say "Merry Christmas" to pastors in the Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota Conventions

What is it?

For over 38 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas. This is our way of letting the pastors in these areas of Southern Baptist life know that we care about and support them in their work.

What can you do?

Men's Ministry, RA, and WMU groups, individuals, churches, etc., can send their gifts payable to:

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

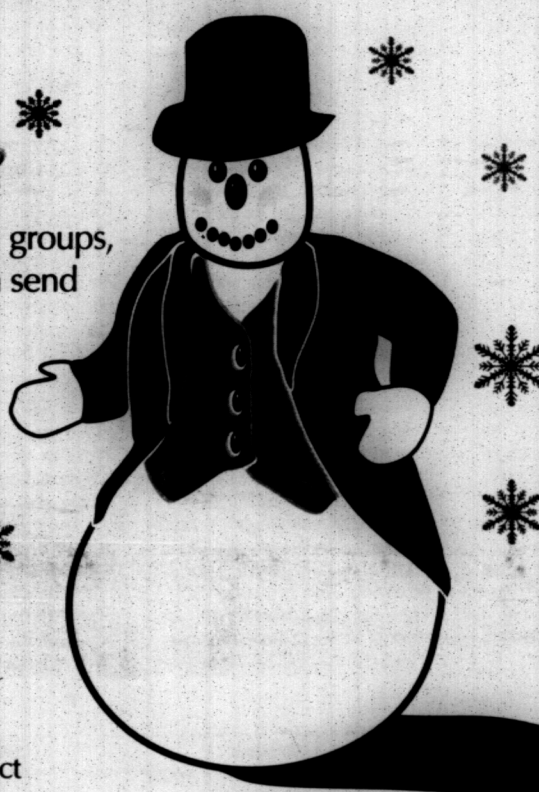
Attention:
Men's Ministry Department
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Cost: \$130 per suit

Designate on your check: Suit Project

SPECIAL MINISTRY FOR THE PASTORS' WIVES

If funds are available, we will send clothing gift certificates for the wives as we did last year.



Sponsored by the
Men's Ministry Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD

Church, Tupelo



Steve & Becky Carver

Ronnie Floyd

Jack Graham

Rick Greene

Richard Jackson

Danny Lanier

Slater Murphy

Reggie & Lovie Smith

Jay Strack

Don Taylor

Aaron Jones

Ray Walker

Steve Walker

"A Moment of Destiny"

Book 6.1

For more info, contact the MBCB Evangelism Department
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

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- Church Recreation
- Youth Ministry
- Media
- Missions

conferences

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1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3286 or e-mail Hgellis@mbcb.org.

One Voice in Worship

November 17

Grace Memorial BC
Gulfport, 6 p.m.



For more info, call the MBCB Church Music Department at
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3267

Pray this day for...

November 8 - December 5, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone (601) 292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1 (800) 787-7729 (PRAY)

"When God is about to pour out His unusual mercies upon His people He first sets them to prayer."

Matthew Henry - Pastor and Bible expositor

This summer, missionaries Don and Linda Johnson in Peru participated in the dedication of the Northern Conchucos New Testament. They are leading church leaders training sessions this fall while teaching the people that they can read Quechua—which they have always thought of as only a spoken language.

Mary C. (Mrs. John) Dolvin, Norcross, Ga., is the literacy missions consultant for the Georgia Baptist Convention. Pray for more volunteers to work with Americans learning to read/write, ethnics who need to learn English, and children and youth who need tutors to help them improve in school.

Liberia, Africa, embroiled in a civil war for more than 10 years, is experiencing a renewal. Some say fasting and prayer have saved the nation. On the first Sunday after a fast, 75,000 people gathered to pray in a stadium in Monrovia. Among them, Liberian President Charles Taylor, who said: "Today I am not the president of this nation, Jesus is the president." Pray that this renewal will continue.

For: (1) Season of Prayer for International Missions, 1st - 8th (WMU/MM Emphasis); (2) Pray that Bongo Christians of Cote D'Ivoire would be living testimonies to the grace and goodness of the Lord to their family, friends and neighbors.

For: (1) Youth Ministers' Workshop, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville, 11th - 13th (P/LD); (2) Please pray today for President Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria (West Africa). Also pray for President Enrique Bolanos of Nicaragua (Central America).

For over 38 years Baptists in Mississippi have enjoyed sending new suits to the pastors in new work areas (Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota). This is a way of letting them know that we care about and support them in their work. Pray for this project as well as for the pastors who receive these suits.

A few months ago, some university students in Libya were detained for their faith in Jesus. Let us faithfully intercede on behalf of those students who are undergoing persecution and pray that the officials will show mercy on them.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board New Board Orientation and Banquet; (2) That Tennessee remain gambling free, the lottery will be defeated, and that the voice of Christ be heard as a united voice. James Porch, the executive director of Tennessee Baptists, says, "A lottery and all gambling creates losers."

The International Prayer Leaders Consultation will be held Nov. 12-16, 2002, in Cape Town, South Africa. Pray for protection for all the IPC leadership, their families and ministry colleagues. Almost 300 prayer leaders from all over the world are expected. One objective for the consultation is to build relationships between leaders from every region.

Pray for the ministry of discipleship in the Zambian churches. Without effective discipleship, there would be no real church growth. Pray for those who are involved in leading various discipleship programs and for those who are being disciplined.

In October, the founder of an agency that provides medical equipment to 89 countries visited the Serb Team. The team thanks the Lord for opening doors with doctors and city officials through this visit. They will be working with a clinic through which they hope to share the gospel. Pray that this will be an effective witness.

For: (1) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee Meeting, Baptist Building; (2) Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Meeting, Baptist Building; (3) Pray for Prime Minister Gen. Than Shwe of Myanmar (between India and China).

The Lord has recently opened the door for missionaries Paul and Aureo Trinh to write gospel articles for the only Chinese magazine in the Dominican Republic. Pray for them as they write and as they encourage Chinese Christians to write their testimonies.

Please pray for a new work in a small village north of a major city in Sri Lanka. There is a small group of young believers, and workers hope to reach out to them through a medical clinic in that area.

Thank the Lord for the new Dagomba Baptist Church in Accra, Ghana's capital city. Pastor N. joined with three Dagomba university students to begin this work. Pray for this new group of believers, asking God to give each member of the congregation a zeal to reach others for Christ.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 4th - 6th; (2) Pray for the new national missionaries to the Gogo people of Tanzania. They have many cultural and language adjustments to make and are very far from their own home and extended family, without the benefits of e-mail or telephone.

For: (1) Men's Ministry Area Coordinators Meeting, Garaywa, Clinton (MM); (2) Pray for the English-language churches in Bucharest, Romania, as they meet to discuss ways to reach out to the large English-language community in the city. Pray for a pastor for the International Baptist Church.

God has called many single women to be His witnesses to Muslim women, most of whom cannot be reached by the efforts of men. These women live and minister in cultures that do not value them as women and place many restrictions upon their lives. Ask God to give them many relationships with the Muslim women in their communities.

Missionary Danefie Thrush shares a report about several dozen Hakkas of Taiwan who met in a Baptist Church during Short Month (8/6 - 9/6). At the worship service people began to share testimonies. One man told how he used to worship numerous idols before the Lord gave him peace. Pray for the remnant of Hakkas Chinese who know Jesus that they will be one in Spirit.

Clark and Valerie Rumpf, Hazlehurst, have been approved as NAMB missionaries to Toronto, Canada. Pray for the following needs: selling their home, their families, their trust in God as their life changes, a hedge of protection around them and spiritual guidance in all their decisions. They plan to depart early in January.

For: (1) International Student Conferences, Garaywa (CLGM); (2) Pray for the use of indigenous music in worship and evangelism, so that the Ko of Benin and Togo might hear God's Word in their own language and in a way that speaks to their hearts.

For: (1) Missions Mobilization Celebration Banquet, FBC, Jackson, (MMOB); (2) Missions Mobilization Celebration, Jackson, 15th - 16th (MMOB); (3) Preschool/Children's Leadership Festival, Main Street LC, Mableburg, 15th-16th (Preschool/Children's Team Projects).

Last year, nearly 470 believers in China answered God's call to leave their homes to become self-supporting missionaries in countries with little or no access to the gospel. Plans are to train 100,000 new Chinese missionaries and 500,000 itinerant evangelists by 2010. Praise God for these believers, most of whom left home with no support.

Two journeymen are on their way to Nairobi, Kenya, for student work on the city's campuses. They will work through Parklands Baptist Church which has a vision of placing disciples on each of the city's campuses to reach the 200,000 students. Pray for the Spirit's empowering of this ministry.

A group of Deaf are meeting three times a week in a small town for Bible study and to learn Colombian Sign Language. Their goal is to start a church. There is one deaf Christian in this town. Pray for the others who are openly seeking and for the young man who is leading them.

Despite massive migration to cities in recent years, the vast majority of Chinese people still live in rural areas. Pray for Christians who work as farmers to honor Jesus in all they do. Pray for Chinese Christians who work in factories to work heartily as unto the Lord.

An appeals court in the Middle East gave a 36-year-old Arab Christian widow five days to surrender custody of her daughter Rawan, 14, and son Fadi, 12, to be raised as Muslims. She went into hiding after a judge ruled that her children must be handed over to their Muslim uncle. Ask God to deliver them from this oppression.

Michael and Michelle Dean are NAMB "foreign" missionaries in Boston. Michael reaches out to international visitors, diplomats, business people, and students from around the world. Michael and Michelle have a financial shortfall. Ask God to supply their needs.

TNT

Thursday Night Together
A Metro Jackson Singles Gathering
If you are SINGLE, YOU are invited!

Beginning November 7, 2002

First and third Thursday of each month

6:30 p.m. Cokes and jokes

7 p.m. Focus, reel life

First Baptist Jackson, Christian Life Center, room 200

For more info, contact Jan Halford, MBSingles@aol.com
Sponsored by MBCB and Metro Area Baptist churches

3-01 Miss Jessie M. Crocker
Parents: George & Ginger
Sports Evangelism

5-93 Miss Meleah D. Peacock
Parents: Kevin & Brenda
Theological Education

15-92 Miss Molly Crocker
Parents: George & Ginger
Sports Evangelism

15-83 Miss Chesed A. Dent
Parents: Donald & Anne
Regional Leader

21-97 Mr. Caleb E. Holyfield
Parents: Michael & Patricia
Church Planting

26-89 Miss Hannah Ray
Parents: Michael & Linda
Religious Education



For security, cards will be forwarded.
Please send all to:
Child's name and parent's name
MBCB Church Growth
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

First Church, Mathiston, has participated in recent mission trips. The Quilting Circle designed a Mississippi Quilt that Lowell Ingram, pastor, presented to Christian Evangelical Church, Lubashevka, Ukraine, on Sept. 29. During the summer, Lindsey Spencer served as a Baptist Student Union missionary to Thailand. In July, Joyce Patterson served with a Mississippi Baptists Missions Mobilization team to Odesa, Ukraine, and 18 youth and adults spent a week in Mobile, Ala., as part of Mission-



Mathiston Church Mississippi Quilt

Fuge. The Baptist Men constructed a brick home near Pontotoc as well as gave money to the Mississippi Baptists Suit Project. The men recently returned from Honduras as part of a construction team from First Church, Starkville. The children participated in World Hunger Day on Oct. 13.

Liberty Church, Carrollton, received the Church Gold Award, Discipleship Training Rally Attendance Certificate, and Percentage Certificate at the recent



Narmour and Blair

Associational Discipleship Rally. Pictured (from left) are James Narmour and Clay Blair.

Right to Life Chain was held Oct. 6 by White Oak Church, White Oak, on Highway 18 West of Raleigh.



Right to Life Chain, White Oak Church, White Oak

The Baptist Men of Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, recently completed a roofing project. Pictured (foreground, from left) are Tommy Hamilton, James Harrell, Eugene Pennington, Randy Lum, and Quince Heidelberg. Steve Mayes is pastor.



Pelahatchie Church Roofing Project, Pelahatchie

The Quilting Bee's of Belden Church, Belden, made Owen Riddick (pictured) and his wife a friendship quilt as a token of appreciation. If you have a pieced quilt that needs quilting, contact (662) 842-6341.

Central Grove Church, Aberdeen, licensed Mark Osborne to preach on Aug. 4. Pictured (from left) are Richard Milstead, Osborne, and Dennis Smithey.



Owen Riddick



Milstead, Osborne, and Smithey

Some people say technology has no soul, no spirit.

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS



Sclater

James Sclater, a faculty member in the department of music, Mississippi College, Clinton, has been chosen as the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecturer for 2002-2003. Sclater's lecture will be centered around a lecture of Variations and Toccata on a theme by Paganini for Piano Solo Nov. 12 at 7 p.m. in Aven Auditorium. Angela Willoughby will demonstrate the piece. Admission is free.



Coggin

STAFF CHANGES



Coggin

Midway Church, Moss Point, called John Coggin as pastor on Sept. 18.

Spring Hill Church, Waterford, called Bobby D. McKay as pastor on Sept. 22. McKay is currently doing graduate work at Slidell Baptist Seminary.

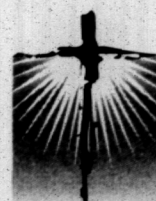
The College of Arts and Sciences, Mississippi College, Clinton, has named four new department chairs. Stan Baldwin



Pierce



Price



MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS

REVIVAL & HOMECOMING DATES

Evergreen, Shubuta: Nov. 20-22; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Bob Harrington, The Chaplain of Bourbon Street, evangelist; Rell Webber, Bolton, Bolton, music; Chris Layton, pastor; for more information, call (601) 687-5050.

Topeka, Jayess: Nov. 10; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on grounds; special music by the Smith family and The Crownsmen in concert, 1:30 p.m.; Bob Lynch, speaker; Maurice Rutland, worship leader; Dale Authement, pastor.

Oak View, Terry: Nov. 17-20; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; nursery provided; Jerry W. Mixon, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, preaching; Sid Johnson, music; Scott Worley, pastor.

Fredonia, New Albany: Nov. 3-6; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Gregg Thomas, Parkway, Houston, evangelist; Ray Walker, Parkway, Houston, worship; Mike Mathena, pastor.

Parkway, Houston: Nov. 10; Harvest Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Phil Waldrep, evangelist; Gregg Thomas, pastor.

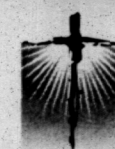
Horseshoe, Tchula: Nov. 10; worship, 10:45 a.m.; lunch following; Robert Futral, speaking; Perry Irvin, pastor.

Faith, Silver Creek: Nov. 17; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; 20th Anniversary service, 1:15 p.m.; John L. Jones, speaking; Don Weber, pastor.

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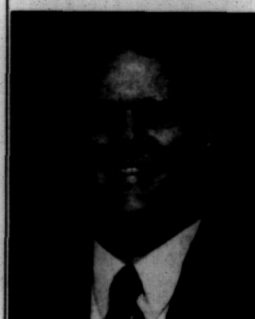
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Resolutions approved by messengers to 2002 MBC

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The resolutions committee reports the following resolutions with the recommendation that they be approved.

No. 1 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

WHEREAS, the one-hundred-sixty-seventh annual session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has again been the beneficiary of the gracious hospitality of the First Baptist Church of Jackson; and

WHEREAS, we the messengers of the one-hundred-sixty-seventh annual session have been blessed, guided, and challenged by the informative and inspirational program planned by the Committee on Order of Business, the institutions and agencies of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and the several officers and committees;

Therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, that we express grateful appreciation to:

The members and staff of First Baptist Church;

The speakers, singers, and instrumentalists, who led us in worship during the convention;

Dr. Frank Pollard, our Convention President, who has led in his first year as president with an emphasis upon "MISSIONS: Making the Difference in Two Worlds;"

All the officers, members of all boards, trustees of all agencies and institutions, committee members, and volunteers, who have served this Convention faithfully as a labor of love.

No. 2 A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE COMMITMENT OF MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS TO OUR MISSION

WHEREAS, Mississippi Baptists have sought throughout our history to expend our time, gifts and resources in obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, while the cultural, technological and economic winds of our time will shift, the movement of the Spirit of God will always be in pursuit of His eternal plan of redemption for His lost creation; and

WHEREAS, we are instructed in God's Word to be urgent both in season and out of season, a command made more compelling by the drums of war that sound throughout the world today; now

Be it therefore **RESOLVED** by the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Convention, that we here assembled do joyfully and boldly reaffirm the commitment of Mississippi Baptists to our mission: "Working to bring Mississippi and the world to Christ."

No. 3 AFFIRMATION OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN

WHEREAS, God in His creative genius has made men and women in His image and with distinctive designs for His plans and purposes; and

WHEREAS, God calls all of His children to be active in obedient service to Him and to each other; and

WHEREAS, for centuries Mississippi Baptist women have distinguished themselves in ministry, missions, and service to our Lord in the church, association, state and national conventions; and

WHEREAS, Baptist women have, through the years, honored God's Word by serving in ministries touching every dimension of church life including Sunday School, Missions, Discipleship Training, Vacation Bible School, Music and Evangelism; and

Therefore, be it **RESOLVED**, that the Mississippi Baptist Convention acknowledge and celebrate the significant, consistent, and vast contributions made by the women of our state and churches to further the Kingdom of God on earth; and

Be it further **RESOLVED**, that while we affirm the Biblical and historical position of male pastors, we also support, encourage and thank God for the millions of women who serve in our churches and ministries around the world; and

Be it further **RESOLVED**, that we recognize the diversity of gifts and the distinctive assignments given to each believer, and continue to hold to the high standard of God's

Word as the guide for church administration; and

Be it further **RESOLVED**, that holding fast to the great principles of the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of each believer, we seek to submit to God's pattern of leadership as indicated in the Scripture; and

Be it finally **RESOLVED**, that all Mississippi Baptist women be fully encouraged and appreciated for the invaluable service that they render to our Lord Jesus Christ at all levels of convention life.

No. 4 A RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE NEED OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY TO GOD'S CHILDREN WHO HAVE MENTAL RETARDATION AND TO THEIR CARE GIVERS

WHEREAS, almost 4%, approximately 80,000 people, of the population of Mississippi has mental retardation, and residential facilities based on Christian principles are very few and very expensive; and

WHEREAS, many care givers are approaching the age wherein they will be no longer be able to care for their mentally retarded loved ones in their homes; and

WHEREAS, these care givers are searching for an affordable Christian environment for these most defenseless of God's children; and

WHEREAS, several Southern Baptist state conventions already address the need of Christian ministry to God's children who have mental retardation and their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Baptist Homes, Inc. has been organized as a charity under the Mississippi code with by-laws and a Board of Directors and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charity by the Internal Revenue Service; and

WHEREAS, membership on the Board of Directors of Baptist Homes, Inc. is restricted to persons who are members of churches associated with the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, the budget and expenditures of Baptist Homes, Inc. are supervised by said

Board of Directors, and these records are available for inspection; and

WHEREAS, Baptist Homes, Inc. will not be an agency of, nor managed by, the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, all staff in Baptist Homes, Inc. will be qualified professionally as well as professing Christians; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board Executive Committee "applauds and supports in prayer" the vision of Baptist Homes, Inc.; and

Be it therefore **RESOLVED**, that messengers to the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Convention affirm the mission of Baptist Homes, Inc.; and

Be it therefore **RESOLVED**, that churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention be encouraged to develop an awareness of the need of ministry to God's children who have mental retardation and their care givers; and

Be it finally **RESOLVED**, that Mississippi Baptists pray for, encourage and assist in ministry to mentally retarded adults and their caregivers.

No. 5 RESOLUTION IN APPRECIATION FOR JACK WINTON GUNN ON BEHALF OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WHEREAS, preservation of Baptist history in Mississippi is a vital function of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Jack Winton Gunn was a capable and productive researcher, writer and editor of Mississippi Baptist history; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gunn's academic career included 12 years of teaching and leadership at Mississippi College, and he also served from 1981 to 1992 as Executive Secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gunn's numerous historical publications included the histories of individual Baptist churches, as well as Mississippi Baptist Preachers: Current Biographies, and other writings related to Baptist life.

Therefore, be it **RESOLVED**: that we take this means of expressing our appreciation for Dr. Gunn's extensive work in collecting and preserving material related to Mississippi Baptist history; and that we recognize with gratitude the guidance and inspiration that he devoted to supporting and encouraging others to preserve that history; and that these resolutions of appreciation for Dr. Gunn be entered into the records of the Historical Commission and the Mississippi Baptist Convention; and that a copy of these resolutions be presented to his devoted wife, Margaret Holt Gunn, whose constant support added greatly to his achievements.

MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC sought by church averaging 110 in Sunday School. Please email resume to mwsjgb@vicksburg.com or fax to (601) 636-7574 or mail to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH, Pascagoula, Miss. is seeking a Senior Pastor. Please send resume to P.O. Box 2278, Pascagoula, MS 39567, Attn: Search Committee.

TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH LOCATED twelve miles south of Monticello, is seeking a Bi-Vocational Minister of Music. Primary responsibilities will include directing music during regular worship services, and special music/drama presentations during the year. Send resumes to: Topeka Baptist Church, 807 China Grove Road, Jayess, MS 39641.

STUDENT MINISTER SOUGHT BY church averaging 154 in Sunday School/70 in Discipleship Training. E-mail resume to Longviewbc@onecall-inc.com or mail to Longview Baptist, c/o Johnny Sykes, 406 Dozier Hill Rd., Belden, MS 38826. Church located 6 miles east of Pontotoc, MS/10 miles west of Tupelo, MS.

BI-VOCATIONAL YOUTH MINISTER sought by church averaging 185 in Sunday School. Mail resume to Corinth Baptist Church, 207 Church Road, Magee, MS 39111 by December 9, 2002.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OLOH, Sumrall, Miss. is seeking to employ a part-time Minister of Music that would be responsible for working with the children, youth, and adult choirs. If interested, please mail your resume to FBC Oloh, c/o Music Minister Search Committee, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482.

BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC position available at Bethel Baptist Church in Water Valley, Miss. For further information contact Bill Finch at (662) 473-3667 or email bfinch@softhome.net

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FULL-TIME CHILDREN'S MINISTER needed: Amite Baptist Church, 7100 Amite Church Road, Denham Springs, LA 70706. Email tbooth@amitechurch.org or fax to (225) 665-5730, pastor, Terry Booth.

ROMANTIC ITALY SPRING BREAK, March 2003 - under \$2,000. Bill and Margarita Stanford, (601) 924-1593 for brochure.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, GRAND BAY, Alabama seeks part-time Minister of Music to coordinate the work of chil-

dren's, youth, and adult choirs. Major emphasis to adult choir. Music style should reflect traditional with a slant toward southern gospel. Direct inquiries and/or resumes to Chairman, Music Search Committee, 13020 Holly Court, Grand Bay, AL 36541.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Salvation Is Available

Romans 3:19 - 30

By Gene Neal

How can a person be saved? How can any of us go to heaven? Ask ten people on the street those questions and you will likely get ten different answers. Some will have a long list of things to do while others will believe they are going to heaven no matter what they do. Obviously, this was a greatly misunderstood issue in the early church for much of the New Testament deals with answering these questions. Paul was very clear in the book of Romans that salvation comes by faith. Even that answer leaves us with some questions.

If salvation comes by faith, what part do God's laws play? Some in Paul's day believed

salvation came only to those who kept the laws. The Jewish people had an abundance of laws and traditions that they had added to God's laws. In their theology, these rules also had to be kept. These ideas came into the church through people known as Judaizers. Today we come close to this with a "grace plus" theology which says that salvation comes by God's grace PLUS the good deeds that we do. Paul is clear when he says in Romans 3:21 that righteousness is "apart from law" (NIV/NAS) or "without the law" (KJV). Then, what is the purpose of the law? He answered that question in 3:20. The law makes us aware of our sinfulness. God placed His standards before us in the



Neal

law in order to demonstrate that it is impossible for us to keep them by human effort. We can not keep God's law any more than we can wave our arms and fly! Trusting in our efforts to earn or deserve salvation is futile and illogical. God only accepts perfection and He won't find that even in the purest of humans. The bad news of the law is what makes the gospel such good news!

Paul goes on to tell us that there is salvation available to everyone totally apart from being good enough or keeping the rules. He explains that this salvation comes through faith to those who believe in Jesus Christ. At that point we need to be careful to understand what it means to believe in Jesus. This is not talking about an intellectual knowledge. It is not merely an admission of existence. James said that even the demons believe and certainly they aren't going to be saved. The Biblical

concept of believing in Christ means to place oneself in total submission to the lordship of Jesus Christ, to give all of you to all of Him.

Who can have this faith? In this text, Paul says ANYONE! He goes to great length to point out that there is no difference in people. All may believe - submit to Christ and be saved through faith. The flipside is also true. There is no distinction among those who are saved, and there is no distinction among those who are lost (those who have chosen NOT to submit to the lordship of Christ).

In Romans 3:25 Paul tells us how all of this works. Obviously, faith is only as good as the object in which it is placed. If God only accepts perfection, and we will never be perfect, there is a clear problem. The solution: faith is placed in the blood of Jesus Christ! God does accept His own Son, Jesus, because He was and is sinless - perfect in every way. Some have a prob-

lem with the idea of salvation by faith because they see it as free and, we all know, that nothing is free. Everything costs someone something. We live in a free country because someone, at some time, was willing to give their life for our freedom. In a similar manner, our spiritual freedom comes free to us, but paid for at a great cost by the only one qualified to purchase it, Jesus.

Paul reinforced the idea that salvation is not by our works when he said that we have nothing we can boast about. The Jews saw a great deal of self righteousness to the point of bragging about the laws and traditions that one could keep. We see the same thing today when we boast of our accomplishments, donations, service, etc. The only thing we should boast about is the work of Christ because that is the only thing God can truly accept.

Neal is the pastor of First Church, Quitman.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Live in God's Care

John 10

By Ginger M. Caughman

Another hurricane is approaching our Gulf Coastline as I write. All of Mississippi is under a storm alert from either hurricane rain, wind, flooding or tornado. "Unusual," reports a Jackson television weather reporter. As I type "Live in God's Care," the Scripture enters my mind and penetrates my spirit, "God is our refuge and strength a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46). Are Christians exempt from trouble? No, of course not. That's naive thinking. The promise from Psalms says God is our hiding place and strong help in trouble. You know the quote from Jesus; "In this world you will have trouble. But...I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We can experience the results of eternal life in

Christ by trusting God to care for us daily and eternally.

Our beautiful passage this week features Jesus teaching about Himself as the Good Shepherd. Who cares for you? Being cared for is an important concern in our society. Often people look for that care in money, insurance, savings, or government agencies.

The challenge is for Christians to learn to trust God to care for us daily and eternally.

Read the background teachings on the Good Shepherd in John 10:1-6. Jesus described Himself as the gate (or the door) of the sheepfold. He contrasted one entering any other way as a thief and a robber. Herschel Hobbs' writings clarify this passage: "The Pharisees were supposed to be shepherds of the Jews. But their attitude



Caughman

toward the people showed they were false shepherds. The Pharisees preyed on the sheep instead of being their shepherd."

1. Protection for Daily Life. Read John 10:7-10. Do you believe that God can care for you? Examine the Biblical evidence that God cares for His people

and identify areas of your life where you need to trust Him to care for you. The beloved passage in the Hebrew songbook emphasizes "The Lord is my Shepherd" (Ps. 23). Jesus shows how a good shepherd in Israel took care of the sheep assigned him. He also sets the stage for His teachings as He proclaims that He is that Shepherd. "Jesus uses the mixed metaphor and describes Himself as the door and the shepherd" (Hobbs). Jesus gives us the beautiful picture of the relationship between the Shepherd and His sheep (vv. 3-8). Jesus emphasized God's concern for the daily welfare of His people. Real life or abundant life is

promised by our Shepherd. (If you do not know John 10:10b hide it in your mind and heart now. I prefer the KJV using the word abundant.) The full life in Christ is inexhaustible, bubbling up and overflowing.

2. Provision of Eternal Life. Read John 10:11-18. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, describes Himself and contrasts His actions with those of a person hired to look after another's sheep. Jesus laid down His life for you and for me. God's provision of salvation is through the voluntary death of His only Son. Christians are believers who have received eternal life because of Jesus death on the cross.

3. Preservation for Eternity. Read John 10: 27-30. After describing His followers' relationship with Him as that of sheep and Shepherd, Jesus then declared their salvation is secure for eternity. Martin Luther said, "the 'hinge' of the 23rd Psalm is the word 'my.'" David, the shepherd king of Israel wrote the beloved poem. Jesus called Himself the Shepherd. Thus you can personalize the

Psalm to read: The Lord Jesus Christ is my Shepherd!

Over and over in this spiritual Gospel, John gives us the words of Jesus affirming His Deity. Jesus was sent from God the Father and indeed was and is God. We who have received Him as Savior and Lord of our lives can be confident that our salvation is secure for eternity. Living in God's care also means that He is with us in the daily details of today and everyday.

As Christians living in a troubled world we often experience the need for this lesson reminding us to practice our faith and hold onto God. "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). Jesus is our Shalom (Hebrew for peace). The complete promise of Jesus in John 16:33 reminds us that He is our peace. "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Live in God's loving care.

Caughman is a member of First Church, Magee.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

October 1-31, 2002

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The Baptist Children's Village is the recipient of a generous donation of a classic 1971 Lincoln Mark III automobile with only 60,000 miles by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Parker of New Albany. The automobile is in excellent condition. The Baptist Children's Village is accepting bids for the automobile and all the funds generated from the sale will be used to provide for the needs of hurting children and families all across Mississippi. To place a bid or seek more information please contact The Baptist Children's Village at 601-922-2242 or ccade@baptistchildrensvillage.com.

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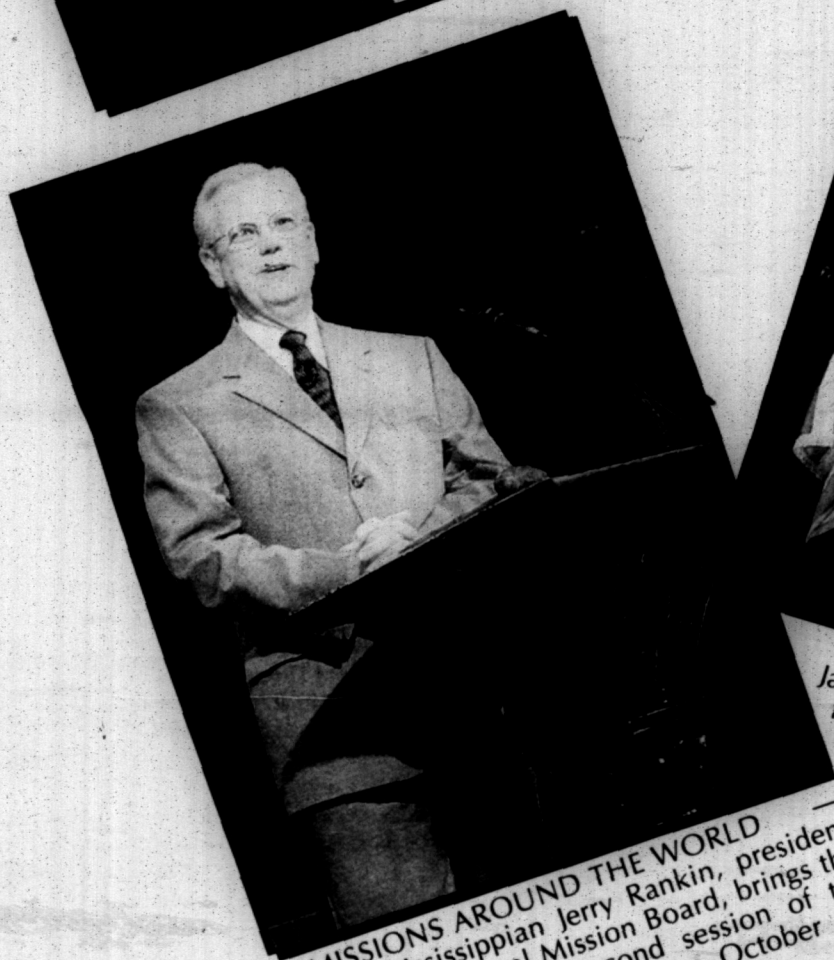
2002 Mississippi Baptist Convention



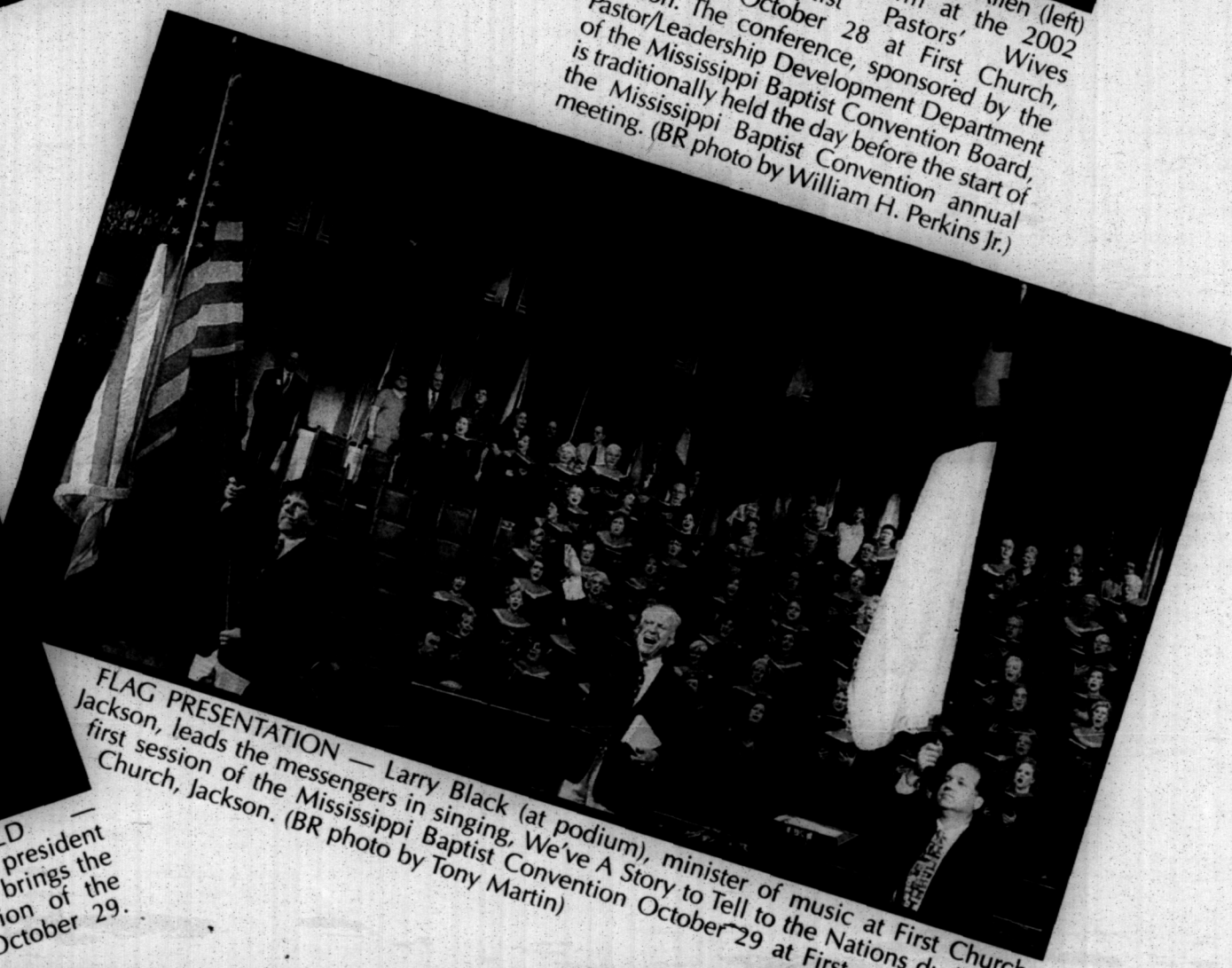
WELCOME! - Ann Bryant (center, red dress), shares a warm welcome and a Book of Reports during registration with a messenger to the 167th Mississippi Baptist Convention October 29-30. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



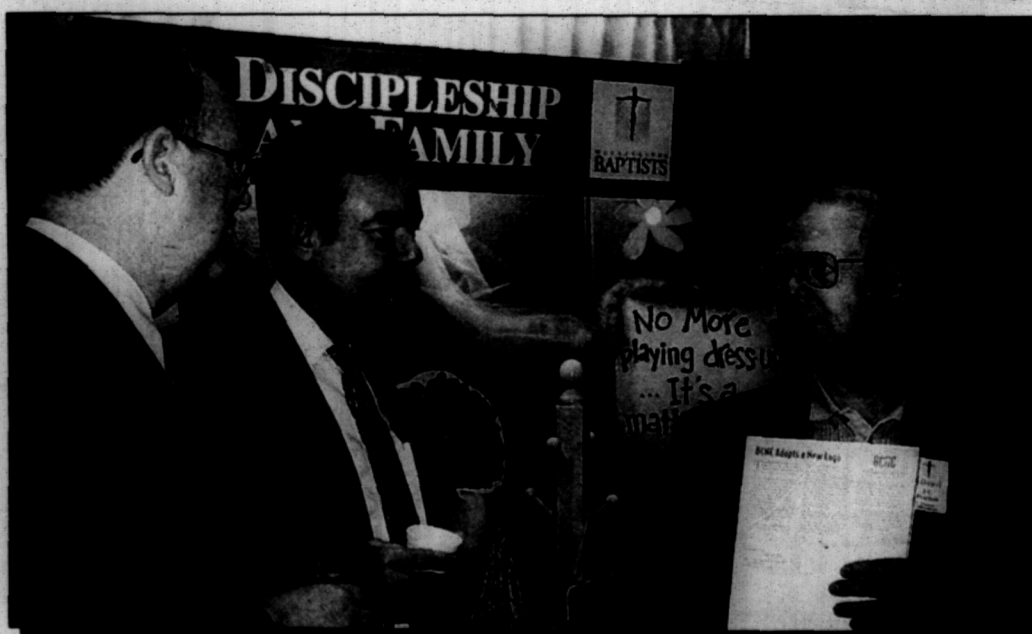
PRAISE IN SONG - Michael Allen (left) and his wife Yana perform at the 2002 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Wives Conference October 28 at First Church, Jackson. The conference, sponsored by the Pastor/Leadership Development Board, of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is traditionally held the day before the start of the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meeting. (BR photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD - Native Mississippian Jerry Rankin, president of the International Mission Board, brings the message during the second session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 29. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



FLAG PRESENTATION - Larry Black (at podium), minister of music at First Church, Jackson, leads the messengers in singing 'We've A Story to Tell to the Nations' during the first session of the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 29 at First Church, Jackson. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



IN THE EXHIBIT HALL - Glenn Shows (left), consultant, and Marcus Peagler (center), director of the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, share fellowship and information with J. C. Prather, associational missions director for Prentiss Association in Booneville, during the Mississippi Baptist Convention October 29-30 in Jackson. (BR photo by Tony Martin)